

## Questions

1. Della and Jim Young, newly married, were poor. Jim's wage was enough to rent only a very small apartment. But there were two things of which each was extremely proud. Della had the longest and most beautiful hair in all New York, thought Jim, as he watched her combing it; and Jim possessed a magnificent gold pocket-watch, given to him by his father.

Christmas was drawing near, and Jim and Della began to think what presents they could afford to give each other. Della always noticed sadly, when Jim looked at his watch, that it was fixed to the button-hole of his coat by a common old leather strap. He really needed a gold chain. And Jim often thought as he looked at Della doing her long hair, how well it would look if only he could buy her a jewelled comb to hold it in place. But a gold watch chain or a jewelled hair-comb would have cost far more money than either of them possessed.

Now it was Christmas Eve. With tearful eyes Della had counted the money she had saved for Jim's Christmas present for the tenth time: 87 cents. "If only I knew....", she thought. Then suddenly she had a wonderful idea! Hurriedly putting on her old hat and coat, she ran down the street to the shop with the notice "Hair bought". She entered and an hour later walked out of the shop richer by 15 dollars, but without her hair! On the way home she stopped at every watch maker's shop until at last she found exactly the right chain to suit Jim's watch.

Returning home, with one dollar and 87 cents left in her pocket, she had just enough time before Jim arrived home from work to wrap the precious gift in a piece of coloured paper, and to curl the remaining short ends of her hair. When Jim saw it, he was speechless "Oh, Jim, don't look at me like that!" Della cried "It'll grow again, sure it will. Very quickly. Believe me. And I had to do it. Here,!" She produced the parcel with the watch - chain from behind her back. "You see, I had to sell it to get money for your present. Happy Christmas, dear."

When Jim had opened it, he collapsed on a chair and laughed until tears came into his eyes. "I think we'd better put our presents away for a while", he said gently, at last. "You see," he continued, taking a small package from his pocket, "I've sold my watch to buy this comb for your hair! Isn't that funny?"

Nodding, as the tears rose in her eyes too, Della gave Jim a brave smile and said: "Ours are the best Christmas presents in the world, you know".

Question 1: Della counted the 87 cents with tearful eyes because

- A. She didn't want to spend the money she had saved
- B. She couldn't think what to buy for 87 cents

- C. She thought Jim hadn't saved any money
- D. The money wasn't enough

2. Della and Jim Young, newly married, were poor. Jim's wage was enough to rent only a very small apartment. But there were two things of which each was extremely proud. Della had the longest and most beautiful hair in all New York, thought Jim, as he watched her combing it; and Jim possessed a magnificent gold pocket-watch, given to him by his father.

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Question 2: "If only I knew..... " Della meant to say "If only I knew....."

- A. whether Jim is going to buy me a present
- B. whether Jim is going to sell this watch

- C. how I could get some money
- D. what to buy Jim as a Christmas present

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Question 3: "Nodding" means that Della

- A. thought it was funny too.
- B. didn't think it was funny.

- C. told a lie to please Jim.
- D. thanked Jim for his present.
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Question 4: Della thought theirs were "**the best Christmas presents in the world**" because they

- A. had cost a lot of money.
- B. would be useful for a long time.

- C. were funny presents to give each other.
- D. showed how much they loved each other.